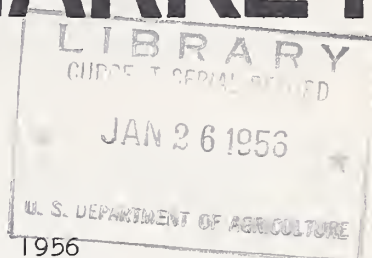


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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

GERMAN CIGAR INDUSTRY INTERESTED IN HOMOGENIZED LEAF

The cigar industry in the Federal Republic of Germany has shown keen interest in the developments of homogenized leaf in the United States. The production of homogenized leaf in Germany, according to trade sources, would be too costly because of the high rental demanded for the use of the machinery developed by an American company. However, the industry continues to be interested in the use of homogenized leaf but points out it must be at least competitive with the paper binder that the industry is now using in the production of the low-priced Swiss-type cigars.

During 1955 the West German Tobacco Growers' Association requested the Federal Government to prohibit the use of paper binder in the manufacture of cigars. The Government did not accede to this request since the cigar industry was able to show that the low-priced Swiss-type cigars could not be produced profitably with natural leaf binder. Inadequate production and the low combustibility of domestic binder were other considerations that prevented the prohibition of the use of paper binder. Replacement of natural binder by homogenized leaf on the higher-priced cigars is not likely to occur in the near future.

SWEDISH TOBACCO IMPORTS DOWN 5 PERCENT DURING FIRST HALF '55

Imports of unmanufactured tobacco by the Swedish Tobacco Monopoly during the first half of 1955 totaled 5.8 million pounds--down 5 percent from the 6.2 million pounds imported during the corresponding period of 1954. Takings of United States tobaccos declined about 16 percent and represented 63 percent of total imports in contrast to 68 percent for the same 6 months of last year. Also, imports of United States cigarettes and smoking tobacco were down 44 and 47 percent, respectively, from the same period last year.

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U.S. TOBACCO EXPORTS,
NOVEMBER 1955

United States exports of unmanufactured tobacco in November 1955 totaled 63.4 million pounds, valued at \$42.0 million, as compared with 59.1 million pounds, valued at \$40.6 million, during November 1954. There were increases in all types except for dark-fired Kentucky-Tennessee, cigar wrapper and cigar binder as compared with November 1954.

UNITED STATES: Exports of unmanufactured tobacco,
November 1955 and January-November 1955,
with comparisons (export weight)

Type	November		Percent change	January-November		Percent Change
	1954	1955		1954	1955	
	1,000	1,000		1,000	1,000	
	pounds	pounds		pounds	pounds	
Flue-cured.....	51,749	53,024	+ 2.5	341,051	415,387	+ 21.8
Burley.....	2,175	4,431	+ 103.7	28,010	28,868	+ 3.1
Dark-fired						
Ky.-Tenn.	2,314	2,304	- 0.4	20,088	20,109	+ 0.1
Virginia fire-						
cured.....	393	962	+ 144.8	3,244	4,035	+ 24.4
Maryland.....	983	1,277	+ 29.9	7,570	7,701	+ 1.7
Green River.....	3	8	+ 166.7	1,861	1,824	- 2.0
One Sucker.....	12	-	-	782	1,705	+ 118.0
Cigar Wrapper....	485	356	- 26.6	3,112	3,820	+ 22.8
Cigar Binder.....	195	135	- 30.8	1,458	1,430	- 1.9
Cigar Filler.....	-	-	-	158	202	+ 27.8
Other.....	811	907	+ 11.8	6,809	8,176	+ 20.1
Total.....	59,120	63,404	+ 7.2	414,143	493,257	+ 19.1
Declared Value						
(million						
dollars).....	40.6	42.0	+ 3.4	277.7	325.0	+ 17.0

Compiled in Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

Exports of unmanufactured tobacco for January-November 1955 period totaled 493.3 million pounds -- an increase of 19.1 percent over exports for the corresponding period of 1954 totaling 414.1 million pounds. Shipments of flue-cured during the first 11 months of 1955 totaled 415.4 million pounds - up 21.8 percent from 341.1 million pounds exported during the same period of 1954. Exports to the United Kingdom for January-November 1955 totaled 168.4 million pounds as compared with 138.9 million pounds for the January-November 1954 period, an increase of 21.3 percent.

Exports of flue-cured to the Republic of Germany for the first 11 months of 1955 totaled 49.8 million pounds as compared with 34.0 million pounds for the same period in 1954. There were increases in total exports for all other types except Green River and cigar binder for the first 11 months of 1954.

Exports of tobacco products, valued at \$5.2 million, were 13.4 percent below November 1954. Exports of cigarettes for January-November 1955 were slightly below those for the same period a year ago. Exports of smoking tobacco in bulk were about 50 percent larger.

UNITED STATES: Exports of tobacco products,
November 1955 and January-November 1955,
with comparisons

Product	November		:Percent :Change	January-November		:Percent :Change
	1954	1955		1954	1955	
Cigars & Cheroots	:	:	:	:	:	:
(1,000 pieces)	854	500	- 41.5	7,558	5,148	- 31.9
Cigarettes	:	:	:	:	:	:
(million pieces)	1,432	1,226	- 14.4	14,027	13,908	- 0.8
Chewing & Snuff	:	:	:	:	:	:
(1,000 pounds)	254	235	- 7.5	1,828	1,430	- 21.8
Smoking Tobacco	:	:	:	:	:	:
in Packages	:	:	:	:	:	:
(1,000 pounds)	62	53	- 14.5	533	524	- 1.7
Smoking Tobacco	:	:	:	:	:	:
in Bulk	:	:	:	:	:	:
(1,000 pounds)	444	580	+ 30.6	3,937	5,901	+ 49.9
Declared Value	:	:	:	:	:	:
(million dollars)	6.0	5.2	- 13.3	57.2	57.7	+ 0.9
	:	:	:	:	:	:

Compiled in Foreign Agricultural Service from records of the Bureau of the Census.

ETHIOPIA CONDUCTING
FLUE-CURED EXPERIMENTS

The Imperial Ethiopian Tobacco Monopoly has been experimenting with test plantings of Virginia-type tobacco in the Awash Valley. The long-range objective of the Monopoly is to replace imported tobacco entirely with domestic leaf. The Awash Valley is a considerable distance from the principal producing area near Yirgalleem. The results of the experimentation with flue-cured plantings are unknown.

URUGUAY EXTENDS WOOL EXPORT PAYMENT PERIOD

The Uruguayan government has extended until March 31, 1956, the "additional" of 21 centesimos per dollar for exports of greasy and scoured wool, and 14 centesimos per dollar for export of wool tops, broken tops, and their sub-products (see Foreign Crops and Markets January 9, 1956).

HIGH TARIFFS LIMIT U.S. EXPORTS OF PORK TO GUATEMALA

The United States exports only token quantities of fresh or canned pork to Guatemala--55,000 pounds in 1954, and only 29,000 pounds in the first 10 months of 1955. However, United States exports of lard to Guatemala in 1954 were nearly 9 million pounds and during January-October 1955 totaled 8.9 million pounds.

Except for import duties, there appear to be no other restrictions or controls which are limiting imports of United States pork products into that country. Sanitary certificates are required on imports of meat products but it is not likely that this requirement would adversely affect imports of United States commodities.

The import duties currently in effect for pork and pork products are as follows:

	U. S. cents per gross kilo	U. S. cents per pound
Fresh meat, refrigerated or preserved in salt	7	3.2
Bacon or ham, canned	30	13.6
Bacon or ham, n.e.c.	20	9.1
Canned meats, other	30	13.6
Dried, smoked, or cured meats, in other containers	10	4.5
Lard	5	2.3

According to the latest information available, there is strong sentiment to raise the lard duty to protect the local vegetable oil industry.

AIRLIFT PROPOSED TO SUPPLY FRESH MEAT TO AFRICAN COPPERBELTS

A million-acre ranch purchase by South African cattlemen, mostly in Bechuanaland and extending into Rhodesia, was announced recently. It is proposed that an airlift be initiated to supply fresh beef from the ranch to the Northern Rhodesian and Congo Copperbelts, where there is an acute shortage of fresh meat.

Substantial shipments of chilled beef were begun to Northern Rhodesia in 1955 from a new slaughter and chilling plant at Lobatsi, Bechuanaland. The plant was financed by the Colonial Development Corporation. These shipments are partially reducing import requirements of live animals from Bechuanaland.

ARGENTINE HOG AND LARD OUTPUT, EXPORTS DOWN IN 1955

It has been reported that trade estimates of Argentine lard exports for 1956 range from 5,600 to 7,000 tons. This compares to preliminary estimates of 6,000 tons for 1955 and a revised total of 7,500 tons for 1954.

1955 hog slaughter thru December 6, 1955, totaled 1,012,665 head compared to 1,200,000 head for the full year 1954. This would indicate a total of 10.9 million for 1955 or 9 percent below 1954. This indicated drop in 1955 hog production may reflect the industrial competition for labor used by the commercial hog producers in Argentina. This factor in hog production is likely to be operative in 1956.

Cattle slaughter in Argentina is taxing the capacity of packing plants. In early December packing plants were booked to slaughter capacity thru February.

NEW REGULATIONS GOVERN SALES OF URUGUAYAN WOOL FOR EXPORT

New regulations governing sales of wool for export have been set forth by the Uruguayan government, in a decree of December 28, 1955. In general, fixed evaluations will be made for every 10 kilos of wool declared for export. This evaluation will govern the compulsory delivery of the foreign exchange after a deduction has been made for the "free exchange" portion established by the Bank of the Republic. This exchange will be obtained at the official rate prevailing at the time of the sale. The exporter will then negotiate the resulting deficit or surplus of foreign exchange in the Free Exchange Market.

According to sources, the general feeling in Uruguay is that a healthy step forward has been taken which will take a great deal of the speculation out of wool trade.

ITALY'S MEAT IMPORTS RISING

Italy's imports of livestock and meat in first half '55 were considerably greater than a year earlier. The increased imports result from rising demand and greater purchasing power of the people. Meat prices are relatively high and imports from dollar areas are prohibited by exchange controls. Imports of meat represent about 10 percent of its requirements.

Preliminary indications are that meat production in Italy during 1955 was slightly smaller than a year earlier. Not much change in beef output is expected but production of lamb, mutton, and goat meat will be somewhat smaller than in 1954. Pork production in 1955 probably was 10 to 15 percent under 1954.

Meat consumption per person has been increasing each year since 1950. It was estimated at only 41 pounds in 1954, and was among the lowest for any of the countries of Western Europe.

ITALY'S TALLOW IMPORTS
CONTINUE LARGE

Dollar allocation for tallow imports by Italy in 1956 are expected to be at least equal to the \$16 million allocated for this purpose in 1955. The soap industry depends largely on imported tallow for basic raw material and the United States is the principal supplier.

In 1954 Italy imported 141.7 million pounds of inedible tallow of which over 90 percent was of U. S. origin. Data on Italy's imports for 1955 are not yet available. However, on the basis of U. S. export data, imports in 1955 probably exceeded those of 1954.

Synthetic soaps presently constitute only a small part of the total soap production in Italy, although some increase is noticeable. Informed sources feel that inedible tallow imports will remain near present levels for the next 3 to 5 years and will increase in the long run. Even though synthetic soap production and usage may expand, this would probably be accompanied by an over-all increase in consumption.

Italy has been a major market for U. S. tallow. U. S. exports of inedible tallow and grease to Italy were 158.9 million pounds in 1954 and 130.0 million in 1953. Exports to Italy during January-October 1955 totaled 150.9 million pounds as compared to 117.6 million in the first 10 months of 1954.

THAILAND'S NEW RICE
CROP PRICES REDUCED

Following preharvest increases in the rice prices of Thailand, the Ministry of Economic Affairs announced as of January 1 official 1955-56 rice crop prices at a reduced rate. As a result of scarcity before marketing of the new crop, prices of both paddy and milled rice increased substantially in late 1955. In some cases, retail prices were higher than the official prices quoted in the accompanying table.

THAILAND: Official rice prices, January 1956

Grade	:	Old crop	:	New crop	:
	:		:		:
	:	Ticals per	:	Ticals per	:
	:	<u>metric ton</u>	:	<u>metric ton</u>	:
	:	Dollars per	:	Dollars per	:
	:	<u>100 pounds</u>	:	<u>100 pounds</u>	:
<u>Paddy</u>	:		:		:
First class	:	1,060-1,160	:	850-920	:
Second class	:	1,000-1,050	:	770-840	:
	:	Ticals per	:	Ticals per	:
<u>Wholesale</u>	:	<u>picul</u>	:	<u>picul</u>	:
5% White rice	:	117-130	:	96-100	:
10% " "	:	106-113	:	94-97	:
15% " "	:	103-110	:	90-95	:
	:	Bahts per	:	Bahts per	:
<u>Retail</u>	:	<u>kilogram</u>	:	<u>kilogram</u>	:
	:	<u>pound</u>	:	<u>pound</u>	:
5% White rice	:	2.20-2.40	:	1.90-1.95	:
10% " "	:	2.05-2.30	:	1.75-1.80	:
15% " "	:	1.95-2.15	:	1.60-1.70	:
	:		:		:

To prevent speculation in rice, the Rice Survey and Hoarding Prevention Board of Thailand issued on December 23 an official order that restricts movement and sale of rice in all provinces of the Kingdom. Under this regulation, rice may be moved out of specified areas only after issuance of a permit by a "competent officer" of the Government.

In addition to regulating local movement of rice and paddy shipments, the Ministry of Economic Affairs has, through the Domestic Trade Department, offered rice for sale at numerous retail stands in Bangkok and elsewhere. The retail price for rice sold at official stands is approximately Bahts 0.45 per kilogram (0.9 cents per pound) less than usual retail prices at privately owned stores.

As a further means of controlling retail rice prices, the Ministry of Economic Affairs is requiring registration of all rice retailers in certain districts.

All exportable supplies of rice from the 1954-55 and previous crops of Thailand apparently were shipped during 1955. The new 1955-56 (December-November) crop, however, is a very large one. This and the fact that export prices of rice are lower in 1956 than in 1955 in some other areas of Asia contribute to a reduction in the price of new-crop rice.

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NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT FIRM ON STANDARDIZED MILK

In spite of requests from the dairy trade to rescind the order requiring standardization of milk going into fluid consumption, the Minister of Agriculture for the Netherlands states that the time is not yet ripe to raise the butter fat content of milk going into fluid consumption. The Minister states that to raise the butter fat content would require an increase in the price to the consumer. This would result in, he says, undesirable consequences to the Nation's agricultural policy. Consequently, the Netherlands will continue to standardize its milk for fluid consumption at 2.5 percent.

For the year ending October 31 the producers milk price stood at \$2.62 a hundredweight for 3.7 percent fat content milk, as guaranteed by the Ministry. The guaranteed price for the current year has not been determined.

NEW BUTTER EXPORT QUOTA IN ARGENTINA

Argentina released on January 11 an additional export quota for butter. The exact amount to go for export has not yet been decided, but trade sources in Argentina believe the amount released for export will be over 2 million pounds.

The previous quota for 3.3 million pounds issued December 26, 1955, was oversubscribed. Final distribution allotted just over 2 million pounds to the United Kingdom. As mentioned in Foreign Crops and Markets for January 16, 1956, the English bid of 40 cents a pound was rejected. England subsequently bid 42 cents. France obtained 375,000 pounds at 41.5 cents a pound. Czechoslovakia received 772,000 pounds at 47.6 cents a pound, and Poland took 110,000 pounds at 45.4 cents.

The minimum export price of this butter is set at 36.8 cents per pound. On free market sales, such as those made to England and France in the currencies of the respective countries, the exporter is allowed to exchange the currency for pesos at the free market rate, approximately half the value of the fixed rate, which is currently set at 18 pesos to one United States dollar.

SWEDISH SUBSIDY PAYMENTS SPECIFIED

The \$19.5 million Swedish farm subsidy mentioned in Foreign Crops and Markets, December 19, 1955, will be broken down as follows, according to a bill passed by the Riksdag on December 17, 1955:

- 58 percent in the form of acreage subsidies
- 22 percent in the form of milk subsidies to farmers in drought areas
- 20 percent as special payments to farmers with 75 percent or less of normal yields

In addition, milk producers in the province of Skane will contribute an unspecified production levy to be paid to needy farmers in other parts of the country. While it was not specifically noted, it is assumed that Skane was least affected by the drought and is partially bearing the burden of its neighboring provinces.

CASEIN SHIPMENTS TO U. S.
AHEAD OF LAST YEAR

At the end of October 1955 receipts of casein by the United States from foreign sources were 10 percent greater than receipts during the full 12-month period of 1954. Total receipts in 1954 amounted to 59.8 million pounds and by 31 October, 1955 exporters of casein had delivered just under 65.7 million pounds.

Argentina continues to be the largest exporter of casein to the United States. During the first 10 months of 1955 imports of casein from Argentina totaled just over 49.6 million pounds; during calendar 1954 imports from this source amounted to 41.25 million pounds.

New Zealand casein shipments amounted to 7.4 million pounds during the 10-month period, January-October, 1955, compared to 5.6 million during all of 1954. Imports from Australia for the 10-month period ending October 1954 are double the annual shipments from that source of 1.5 million in the previous 12-month period. Imports from the Netherlands at the end of October of 0.8 million pounds were more than 25 percent greater than annual imports during 1954, while Norway's shipments were 50 percent greater, at 665,000 lbs.

France has lost considerable of its export business of casein to the United States, having delivered less than 800,000 pounds during 10 months in 1955 compared to almost 3.6 million in 12 months of 1954. Likewise Canada's exports are down, with receipts of Canadian casein at 2.6 million pounds being only two-thirds of 1954.

FINLAND IMPORTING BUTTER

Because of the drought, milk production during the past year in Finland was considerably under 1954 and the manufacture of butter was down 11 percent. Furthermore, consumption was an estimated 18 percent over 1954, primarily due to a reduction in the consumer price of butter in November 1954 when the government undertook to subsidize 22 percent of the retail price.

As a result, stocks of butter are being maintained only at a marginal level of 2.5 million pounds as compared to over 10 million a year earlier. Finland, occasionally an exporter of butter, was definitely in the import category during 1955. Denmark, which has been supplying the Finns with butter, has not been able to meet further commitments; and about 3.3 million pounds of New Zealand butter has been purchased in the United Kingdom at about 49.5 cents per pound, f.o.b. London. This is less than the price asked for Danish butter. The New Zealand product is a sweet cream butter not usually found on the Finnish market, and its salt content of 1.5 percent is much greater than that usually found in Finnish butter.

Finland has expressed an interest in the purchase of about 4.5 million pounds of butter from the United States. However, the Finns are of the opinion that a special churning will be necessary--an analysis of CCC butter recently received through CARE shows between 17 and 18 percent moisture and from 1.7 to 2.0 percent salt, which exceeds not only the Finnish taste but also the food regulations. A 25-ton sample of butter has been shipped to Finland from the United States, manufactured especially for sampling purposes; the butter has a 16-percent moisture content and about 1-percent salt.

Finnish importers consider trade with the United States is done under adverse conditions; without a butter export organization of any kind it is necessary to carry on negotiations with individual producers and exporters.

REDUCED WHOLESALE MILK PRICE
PROPOSED IN VENEZUELA

Inlaca, a milk bottling plant in the city of Valencia, Venezuela, is negotiating a new contract with dairymen in the Carabobo area.

The milk retails for 28.4 cents per quart (13.2 cents a pound). The plant argues that its only profit comes from milk purchased from the provinces of Lara and Zulia, where it pays \$6.60 per cwt. The Carabobo dairyman, however, receives \$9.90 per cwt.

The Carabobo dairymen, on the other hand, argue that the price of milk is already too low, and have threatened to start a new pasteurizing plant if the wholesale price is reduced. (Cont'd., next page.)

Since Inlaca was established to give the producers a profitable outlet for their milk and as one means of reducing the cost of food to consumers, both the producers and the dairy are expected to adjust their demands and a compromise probably will be forthcoming.

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE OF DENMARK'S 1955 DAIRY PRODUCTION

A preliminary estimate of Denmark's 1955 total milk production (11,400 million pounds) shows a decline of approximately 4 percent below 1954 output. This decrease is attributed mainly to the summer drought and poor pasture conditions.

Milk delivered to dairies in 1955 amounted to 10,318 million pounds, compared with 11,010 million pounds in the earlier year. In 1955, about 72 percent was used for butter (74 percent in 1954); 12 percent for cheese (11 percent in 1954); and 12 percent for fluid milk and cream in both years.

Butter production for 1955 amounted to 364 million pounds, a drop of 9 percent from the preceding year. Of the quantity produced in 1955, approximately 77 percent was exported.

Cheese production in 1955 increased about 8 percent over the earlier year. Exports were down in 1955, due to an increase in domestic consumption.

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CHANGES IN U.K.'s WHALING INDUSTRY REGULATIONS

Recent changes in the "Whaling Industry Regulations" revoke and re-enact with amendments the 1953, 1954, and 1955 Regulations, and give effect to certain resolutions of the International Whaling Commission, principally:

"(1) Prohibiting the killing of blue whales in the Antarctic before February 1 in any year . . ."

"(2) Reducing to 15,000 the total number of blue whale units that may be taken in any year in waters south of 40 degrees south latitude by catchers attached to factory ships of the powers bound by the resolutions of the Commission;

"(3) Requiring the return of daily statistics of whales taken after the catch is deemed by the Bureau of International Whaling Statistics to have reached 13,500 whale units."

PHILIPPINE COPRA STATISTICS
FOR DECEMBER REVISED

Philippine copra export statistics for December, which were published in Foreign Crops and Markets, January 16, 1956, have been revised. The preliminary total of ~~84,884~~ has now been raised to 85,384 tons. The additional 500 tons went to Sweden, changing the total quantity for that country to 5,500 tons. The 1,000 tons originally indicated for Norway has been included in Europe unspecified, making that total 9,500 tons. There were no changes in figures reported for coconut oil and prices.

SUEZ CANAL SOYBEAN TRAFFIC
UP MORE THAN HALF OVER 1954

September soybean shipments northward through the Suez Canal were only 294,000 bushels, as compared with the 2,058,000 bushels shipped during the previous month and 147,000 bushels in September of 1954. The accumulative total for January through September, however, was 16,792,000 bushels, an increase of about 56 percent over the 10,766,000 bushels that were shipped during the same period in 1954. Total northbound movements for the year 1954 was about 11,720,000 bushels.

CANADIAN MARGARINE PRODUCTION UP
IN 1955; SHORTENING DOWN SLIGHTLY

Canadian production of margarine (including spreads) during the period January-November 1955 totaled 113.7 million pounds or 7 percent more than the 106.0 million pounds produced in the comparable period of 1954, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa. Shortening production was down slightly--140.1 million pounds against 143.7 million in the first 11 months of 1954.

Of the total fats consumed in the manufacture of margarine, 74 percent consisted of vegetable oils, 23 percent marine oils, and the remainder animal fats. And of the total fats, 34 percent was soybean oil, 15 percent palm oil (including palm kernel oil) and 11 percent cottonseed oil.

The fat composition of the shortening was 56 percent vegetable, 13 percent marine, and 31 percent animal. Soybean oil represented 29 percent of the total fats, palm oil 13 percent, and cottonseed oil 8 percent.

Soybean crushings during January-November 1955 were reported at 601.3 million pounds compared with 494.6 million in the same months of the previous year. Soybean oil and meal yields were 103.3 and 474.3 million pounds, respectively. Flaxseed crushings in the same period totaled 167.3 million pounds against 169.2 million through November of 1954. Linseed oil and meal production amounted to 59.2 and 102.3 million pounds, respectively.

UNITED STATES: Exports of cotton by countries of destination, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49; annual 1953 and 1954; August-November 1954-55 and 1955-56

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of destination	Year beginning August 1						August-November	
	Averages		1953	1954	1954-55		1955-56	
	1935-39	1945-49			1954-55	1955-56	1954-55	1955-56
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales
Austria.....	0:1/	36:	42:	15:	5:		4	
Belgium-Luxembourg.....	169:	131:	68:	66:	29:		2	
Czechoslovakia.....	65:	57:	0:	0:	0:		0	
Denmark.....	33:	14:	23:	21:	7:		0	
Finland.....	35:	21:	10:	13:	0:		15	
France.....	662:	575:	475:	416:	195:		44	
Germany, Rep. of.....	511:	340:	389:	350:	137:		24	
Italy.....	442:	489:	269:	249:	105:		21	
Netherlands.....	107:	131:	104:	95:	33:		1	
Norway.....	17:	7:	14:	12:	4:		0	
Poland and Danzig.....	180:	69:	0:	0:	0:		0	
Portugal.....	36:	2/	0:	11:	0:		0	
Spain.....	108:	69:	167:	197:	1:		37	
Sweden.....	115:	12:	43:	51:	14:		2	
Switzerland.....	11:	26:	24:	37:	26:		7	
United Kingdom.....	1,346:	488:	422:	421:	163:		33	
Yugoslavia.....	17:	47:	40:	103:	16:		1	
Other Europe.....	31:	3/ 33:	10:	9:	2:		2	
Total Europe.....	3,885:	2,545:	2,100:	2,066:	737:		193	
Canada.....	301:	275:	237:	307:	101:		33	
Chile.....	9:	20:	27:	10:	4:		4	
Colombia.....	20:	24:	7:	2:	1:		5	
Cuba.....	11:	16:	20:	19:	9:		1	
India.....	52:	86:	161:	61:	24:		2/	
China.....	117:	401:	0:	0:	0:		0	
French Indochina.....	22:	6:	16:	0:	0:		0	
Indonesia.....	2/	5:	22:	27:	9:		5	
Japan.....	1,142:	585:	1,005:	678:	183:		176	
Korea, Republic of.....	4/ 5/	48:	96:	170:	47:		38	
Taiwan (Formosa).....	4/	1:	110:	120:	24:		34	
Australia.....	9:	7:	45:	52:	15:		8	
Other countries.....	21:	46 6/	68 7/	73:	23:		35	
Total 500-lb. Bales..	5,589:	4,065:	3,914:	3,385:	1,177:		532	

Total Running Bales.: 5,300 : 3,917 : 3,761 : 3,447 : 1,129 : 506

1/ 4-year average. 2/ Less than 500 bales. 3/ Includes Greece 21. 4/ If any, included in "Other countries." 5/ 3-year average. 6/ Israel 12, Ethiopia 11. 7/ Israel 20, French Morocco 11.

Compiled from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

U. S. COTTON EXPORTS DOWN
50 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

Exports of cotton from the United States in November 1955 amounted to 145,000 bales of 500 pounds gross (137,000 running bales) a drop of 28 percent from October exports of 202,000 bales (192,000 running bales), and 64 percent less than exports of 404,000 bales (390,000 running bales) in November 1954.

Exports for the 4-month period, August-November 1955, amounted to 532,000 bales (506,000 running bales) a decline of 55 percent from exports of 1,177,000 bales (1,129,000 running bales) exported during August-November 1954.

The decline was most marked in exports to Western European countries and Canada, with practically no November shipments to Austria, Belgium, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and Canada, and only a few thousand bales to France, the Republic of Germany, Italy, Spain, and the United Kingdom. The only exports that were comparable in volume to last year's were those to Japan, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan (Formosa), Finland, and Spain, all of which are receiving cotton under foreign aid programs whereby a large portion is paid for in foreign currency.

The decline in United States exports is attributed mainly to three conditions: (1) Expectation by foreign buyers that U. S. cotton would be available for export at a later time at lower prices; (2) Availability of large quantities of foreign-grown cotton for export at prices as much as 8 cents a pound below those for comparable quality U. S. cotton; and (3) A recent decline in mill consumption in cotton-importing countries. This decline was due in part to the anticipated reduction in cotton prices.

See table, opposite page.

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CANADA'S COTTON CONSUMPTION
DECLINES IN DECEMBER

Canada's cotton consumption of 32,900 bales (500 pounds gross) in December 1955 represented a decline of 7 percent from the 35,400 bales consumed in November, but was slightly higher (3 percent) than consumption of 32,000 bales in December 1954.

Consumption for the 5-month period, August-December 1955, however, was well above the comparable period last year, amounting to 168,000 bales in the current period or 16 percent higher than the 145,000 bales consumed in August-December 1954.

ITALIAN COTTON IMPORTS AND CONSUMPTION DROP IN 1954-55

Italy's cotton imports during the August-July 1954-55 marketing year amounted to 655,000 bales (500 pounds gross), a decline of 11 percent from imports of 735,000 bales in 1953-54. Moderate increases were registered in imports from the United States, Iran, Syria, and the U.S.S.R., but these were more than offset by declining imports from Brazil, Egypt, Pakistan, and Turkey. Imports in both years were considerably below consumption; and this caused stocks to drop to the low level of approximately a 3-month supply.

ITALY: Imports of cotton from major countries of origin;
averages 1934-38 and 1945-49; annual 1951-54

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of origin	Year beginning August 1					
	Averages		1951	1952	1953	1954
	1934-38	1945-49				
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales
Brazil.....	24	100	3	1/	92	81
Egypt.....	126	142	101	172	118	77
India.....	92	33	13	14	4	5
Iran.....	1/	1/	1/	3	5	22
Mexico.....	2/ 1	17	30	13	6	12
Pakistan.....	3/	3/	48	34	62	29
Peru.....	4/ 3	8	1	1	3	1
Sudan.....	1/	1/	1/	10	31	27
Syria.....	5/ 1	5/ 1	1/	12	13	29
Turkey.....	2/ 14	1/	7	87	97	23
United States.....	416	457	594	390	233	251
U.S.S.R.	1/	1/	1/	1/	16	43
Other countries.....	27	33	46	37	55	55
Total.....	704	791	843	773	735	655

1/ If any, included in "Other countries". 2/ Calendar years prior to 1937-38.

3/ Included in India. 4/ Calendar years prior to 1936-37. 5/ 2 year average.

Source: Statistica del Commercio con l'Estero, Agricultural Attaches, and other United States representatives abroad.

Italy's cotton consumption amounted to about 800,000 bales in 1954-55, a drop of 8 percent from the 872,000 bale consumption in 1953-54. Italy currently maintains bilateral trade agreements with 37 countries. Many of these are now exporting raw cotton to Italy, and receive manufactured goods including finished textiles in return. There have been sharp declines in exports of cotton fabrics and yarns since last year, however, and lowered domestic demand for textiles has also been a factor in the reduced cotton consumption. Italy has a limited per capita consumption of cotton fabrics. Relatively high retail prices have caused accumulation of unsold stocks in producers' warehouses.

Considerable interest has been evidenced by the Italian textile industry in the program being developed by the National Cotton Council for the expansion of the consumption of cotton textiles in Italy, along the lines which have proved successful in the United States. The entire Italian cotton industry reportedly is ready to cooperate in such a program.

Spindle capacity in Italian mills on June 30, 1955, was reported at 5,672,793 spindles installed, of which 4,360,576 were active. A year earlier the figures were 5,757,366 installed and 4,916,245 active. The reduction of 11 percent in spindle activity compared to only a 2-percent decline in installed capacity during this period, indicates the extent to which mill operations have been curtailed. The drop in yarn and fabric exports within the last 3 years is reflected in the relation of exports to total production--which was 12 percent for yarn, and 10 percent for fabrics in 1952, as compared with 7 and 6 percent, respectively, for 1954.

Italy's cotton stocks on August 1, 1955, were estimated at 152,000 bales, down 42 percent from stocks of 260,000 bales held a year earlier.

COTTON SITUATION IN URUGUAY

Cotton consumption in Uruguay during the August-July 1954-55 marketing year amounted to 37,000 bales (500 pounds gross), an increase of about 8 percent over consumption of 34,000 bales in 1953-54. The monthly rate of mill utilization was declining during the last half of 1954-55, however, amounting to only 2,300 bales per month in contrast to the much higher monthly rate of 3,700 bales reported during the first half of the year when mills were working at near capacity. The decline in cotton consumption was attributed to large unsold inventories of cotton goods and a drop in consumer purchasing power. Synthetic fiber consumption reportedly was not a factor in the decline of cotton consumption.

Most of Uruguay's cotton requirements are supplied by imports, since the locally produced cotton amounts to only about 1,000 bales annually. Imports during August-July 1954-55 amounted to 32,000 bales, principally from Brazil under terms of a bilateral trade agreement. No United States cotton has been imported into Uruguay since 1953-54, as dollar exchange is not now being granted for cotton imports. Total imports in 1953-54 amounted to 46,000 bales.

Uruguay's cotton production in 1954-55 amounted to approximately 1,000 bales as compared with 750 in 1953-54. Harvested acreage for 1954-55 was estimated at 2,000 acres as compared with 1,500 in 1953-54. A principal problem of cotton production in Uruguay is the high cost of production in relation to the lower price of imported cotton. Growers are reportedly unable to produce cotton without a subsidy from the Government and/or the mills. Continuation of this subsidy will tend to govern the area planted to cotton in the future. The varieties of cotton grown in Uruguay are: Delta Pine 14 and 15, Empire, Coker 100, and Stoneville 2B and 5.
(Cont'd., next page.)

Uruguay's cotton stocks on August 1, 1955, were estimated at 24,000 bales, down about 14 percent from stocks of 28,000 bales held a year earlier.

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INDIA'S 1955-56 COTTON CROP DAMAGED BY BAD WEATHER

India's cotton production for the August-July 1955-56 marketing year is currently estimated at approximately 4,000,000 bales (500 pounds gross), down considerably from earlier estimates, and 9 percent below the 1954-55 crop of 4,400,000 bales. Untimely rains in the Oomra-growing areas, and heavy floods in the Punjab, have reportedly damaged the crop. Substantial quantities may not be marketable at regular prices because the quality has been lowered by rain and boll worm damage. Acreage for the 1955-56 crop is estimated at 19,000,000 or about 4 percent higher than the 1954-55 area of 18,350,000 acres, but the reduced yields are expected to offset the expansion in area.

Mill consumption of both Indian and foreign cotton in 1954-55 amounted to 3,890,000 bales, up 4 percent from mill consumption of 3,750,000 bales in 1953-54, and the highest figure for cotton consumption by Indian mills during the postwar period. The trend of increased consumption of Indian cotton at the expense of foreign cotton continues to be reflected in 1954-55. Consumption of approximately 150,000 bales of United States cotton in 1954-55, although higher than the 113,000 bales consumed in 1953-54, is far below the 1951-52 and 1952-53 consumption figures of 524,000 and 363,000 bales, respectively.

Consumption of Indian cotton in homes and small industries is usually estimated at 220,000 bales a year, bringing India's total cotton consumption to 4,110,000 bales in 1954-55, and 3,970,000 bales in 1953-54. No significant change in the rate of consumption has been reported for the early months of the 1955-56 marketing year.

India has been a net cotton importer since partition in 1947. In 1954-55 imports amounted to 490,000 bales, or about twice the quantity exported. This ratio varied considerably in earlier years, as shown in the tables on opposite page. Most of India's cotton imports are of the longer stapled varieties from Egypt and British East Africa, with moderate amounts of medium staple from the United States in some years. Both imports and exports are controlled by licenses issued against the import or export quotas announced at intervals throughout the year on the basis of local mill needs and available supplies.

India cotton exports amounted to 209,000 bales in 1954-55, as compared with only 103,000 bales in 1953-54. Japan and the United Kingdom were the principal destinations of India's cotton exports (all short staple) in the last 2 years, with smaller quantities going to the United States, Belgium, France, the Republic of Germany, Italy, and the Netherlands. (Text cont'd., p. 88.)

INDIA: Imports of cotton by countries of origin;
average 1945-49; annual 1950-54

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of origin	Year beginning August 1					
	Average					
	1945-49	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales
Brazil.....	7	1/	1/	1/	0	0
Egypt.....	249	220	116	204	221	115
Kenya.....	157	177	95	195	143	203
Pakistan.....	2/ 132	4	3/	1/	0	0
Peru.....	13	10	10	4	3/	3
Sudan.....	30	79	44	63	43	60
Tanganyika.....	25	16	11	7	2	15
United States.....	71	298	746	77	148	87
Other countries.....	16	3	4	13	8	7
Total.....	4/ 648	807	1,026	563	565	490

1/ If any, included in "Other countries". 2/ 3-year average. 3/ Less than 500 bales. 4/ Figures do not add to total because of Pakistan's 3-year average.

Source: Accounts Relating to the Foreign (Sea, Air and Land) Trade and Navigation of India, Agricultural Attaches, and other United States representatives abroad.

INDIA: Exports of cotton by countries of destination;
averages 1935-39 and 1945-49; annual 1951-54

(Equivalent bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of destination	Year beginning August 1					
	Averages					
	1935-39	1945-49	1951	1952	1953	1954
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales
Belgium.....	147	67	4	17	2	12
France.....	156	173	11	19	7	13
Germany, Rep. of.....	138	1/ 8	8	17	4	11
Italy.....	91	11	4	13	2	5
Netherlands.....	33	19	3	20	7	9
United Kingdom.....	394	75	6	17	14	37
United States.....	77	90	9	36	10	15
Japan.....	1,232	1/ 51	72	143	56	88
Australia.....	2/ 10	12	3/	2	1	2
Other countries.....	4/ 381	62	6	8	0	17
Total.....	2,659	568	123	292	103	209

1/ 3-year average. 2/ 4-year average. 3/ Less than 500 bales. 4/ Includes China 244, Poland 25, Korea 21, French Indo-China 18.

Source: Accounts Relating to the Foreign (Sea, Air and Land) Trade and Navigation of India, Agricultural Attaches, and other United States representatives abroad.

India's cotton stocks held by both the mills and the trade on August 1, 1955, were estimated at 2,360,000 bales, up 31 percent from stocks of 1,800,000 bales held a year earlier. Export quotas announced so far for the 1955-56 season amount to 445,000 Indian bales, (363,000 bales of 500 pounds gross) as compared with a quota of 491,000 Indian bales issued for 1954-55. Export quotas permit the export of a limited number of varieties, mostly of 25/32-inch and below in staple length. Licenses for the export of Assams, Comillas, zoda cotton, cotton pickings and sweepings, yellow pickings, and cotton linters are to be issued freely during the period September 1, 1955, to August 31, 1956. Most of the late-season damage was in varieties that are available for export.

Conditions have been somewhat unsettled in the Bombay cotton market in recent weeks, and prices have increased sharply. Futures trading was suspended by the Government for the 2-week period, December 23, 1955, to January 7, 1956, in an effort to check excessive speculative activities that had resulted in a rise in futures prices of about 140 rupees per candy (3.75 U. S. cents per pound) during November and December. When the market reopened, new ceilings were set for the February and May contracts at 700 rupees per candy (18.75 cents per pound).

Spot quotations also showed considerable increase in recent weeks as evidenced in the following table.

INDIA: Cotton spot quotations for Jarila, Fine, 13/16-inch,
1955-56 crop, at Bombay, November and December 1955

(Equivalent U.S. cents per pound)

Date	: Spot	: Export	: Total	Date	: Spot	: Export	: Total
	: quotation	: tax	:		: quotation	: tax	:
	:	:	:		:	:	:
<u>1955</u>	:	:	:	<u>1955</u>	:	:	:
Nov. 3.....	18.87	: 2.68	:21.55	Dec. 1.....	20.42	: 2.68	: 23.10
10.....	19.00	: 2.68	:21.68	8.....	20.82	: 2.68	: 23.50
17.....	19.80	: 2.68	:22.48	15.....	21.11	: 2.68	: 23.79
24.....	not available	:	:	22.....	21.42	: 2.68	: 24.10
:	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

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1955-56 WORLD CITRUS PRODUCTION HIGHER

The 1955-56 orange and tangerine crop in the Northern Hemisphere is estimated to be around 297 million boxes. This is about 6 percent larger than last year's record crop of 281 million boxes. Grapefruit production in the Northern Hemisphere increased from 47 million boxes in the 1954-55 season to 51 million boxes this season. Production of limes in the world and lemons in the Northern Hemisphere remained about the same as last year's production of 4.6 million boxes of limes, and 27 million boxes of lemons.

Oranges and tangerines.--The orange and tangerine crop in the Mediterranean Area is forecast to be over 122 million boxes, 21 million boxes above last year's short crop. This area has almost completely recovered from the freeze last year, and production conditions this season have been favorable.

Production in North America will be about 156 million boxes this year, slightly lower than last year's record crop. The crop in the United States is 800,000 boxes below last season's total.

Crops in other producing areas are about the same as last year except Japan, which has a smaller crop.

Grapefruit.--The United States is the world's largest producer of grapefruit, producing about 90 percent of the world total. The expected crop of 46 million boxes in 1955 is above last year's crop, but below the record 1953 crop.

Other producing areas indicate crops about equal to those of last year.

Lemons.--The 1955 crop of lemons in the Northern Hemisphere is forecast at 27 million boxes. This is about the same size as last year's crop. Only a very small portion of the world's lemon crop is produced in the Southern Hemisphere.

Limes.--The 1955-56 world lime crop is forecast at 4.6 million boxes, about the same as last year. Mexico is the main producer of limes, with the United States and Egypt being the only other countries reporting lime production.

(See tables, next 5 pages.)

CITRUS FRUIT: Production in specified countries,
average 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1952-55 1/

A r e a	ORANGES, including TANGERINES					
	Average		1952	1953	1954	1955 2/
	1935-39	1945-49				
	- - -		1, 0 0 0	b o x e s	- - -	
<u>NORTH AMERICA</u>						
Mexico.....	4,761	11,296	16,814	17,545	18,897	17,322
United States.....	67,034	109,997	125,080	130,870	135,445	134,615
Cuba.....	1,050	1,200	1,750	1,900	1,650	1,850
Dominican Republic :	401	487	469	475	460	455
Jamaica.....	435	727	781	660	800	*850
Puerto Rico.....	807	847	505	783	*800	*800
Trinidad & Tobago. :	55	115	226	110	275	*200
British Honduras.. :	3/	3/	12	35	80	*50
Total.....	74,543	124,669	145,637	152,378	158,407	156,142
<u>MEDITERRANEAN AREA</u>						
Greece.....	1,470	1,870	3,789	4,190	4,745	4,356
Italy.....	11,701	12,239	20,178	21,636	16,223	21,574
Spain.....	24,167	23,811	43,157	44,124	37,793	48,501
Cyprus.....	441	479	591	986	807	968
Iran.....	504	1,616	1,417	1,417	1,102	*1,200
Lebanon.....	4/1,093	1,269	2,107	2,214	2,142	2,394
Israel.....	5/8,652	8,300	6,373	9,549	7,513	9,220
Syria.....	6/	78	100	71	77	68
Turkey.....	1,119	1,256	3,093	2,830	4,377	4,691
Algeria.....	3,168	4,973	7,741	10,284	10,484	11,653
Egypt.....	6,373	6,686	9,668	9,393	8,457	*9,000
French Morocco.... :	927	3,124	6,693	5,442	6,230	*7,000
Tunisia.....	239	631	764	1,411	1,055	1,433
Total.....	59,854	66,332	105,671	113,552	101,055	122,058
<u>FAR EAST</u>						
Japan.....	15,895	8,396	18,263	13,196	20,411	17,394
Formosa.....	897	963	882	913	976	1,039
Philippines, Rep.of :	195	296	255	*300	*300	*300
Total.....	16,987	9,655	19,400	14,409	21,687	18,733
<u>SUB-TOTAL</u>						
No. Hemisphere.. :	151,384	200,656	270,708	280,339	281,149	296,933

(Continued)

CITRUS FRUIT: Production in specified countries,
average 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1952-55 1/

A r e a	ORANGES, including TANGERINES (Continued)					
	Average		1952	1953	1954	1955 <u>2/</u>
	1935-39	1945-49				
	-	-	1, 0 0 0	b o x e s	-	-
<u>SOUTH AMERICA</u>						
Argentina.....	9,212	10,800	11,800	12,800	*13,000	
Bolivia.....	3,000	3,200	*4,300	*4,300	*4,300	
Brazil.....	34,466	33,153	35,099	35,934	36,869	
Chile.....	250	696	1,102	472	945	
Ecuador.....	582	299	175	209	*200	
Paraguay.....	5,000	5,000	5,200	*5,200	*5,200	
Peru.....	1,000	1,200	1,965	2,710	3,000	
Surinam.....	20	182	187	191	*200	
Uruguay.....	1,300	2,110	1,276	1,606	1,260	
Total.....	54,830	56,640	61,104	63,422	64,974	
<u>OTHER SO. HEMISPHERE</u>						
Union of So. Africa :	4,000	5,536	6,703	7,650	8,667	
Australia.....	2,735	3,394	3,867	2,980	3,225	
New Zealand.....	23	9	15	12	12	
<u>SUB-TOTAL</u>						
So. Hemisphere.....	61,588	65,579	71,689	74,064	76,878	
<u>WORLD TOTAL..</u>						
	212,972	266,235	342,397	354,403	358,027	

(Continued)

CITRUS FRUIT: Production in specified countries,
average 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1952-55 1/

A r e a	G R A P E F R U I T					
	Average		1952	1953	1954	1955 2/
	1935-39	1945-49				
	- - - 1, 0 0 0 b o x e s - - -					
<u>NORTH AMERICA</u>						
United States.....	31,787	53,326	38,360	48,370	42,170	46,200
Cuba.....	375	138	200	240	190	200
Jamaica.....	213	336	430	439	425	470
Puerto Rico.....	448	500	525	525	*500	*450
Trinidad & Tobago...	174	390	700	396	660	*550
British Honduras....	2/	2/	335	200	315	*250
Total.....	32,997	54,690	40,550	50,170	44,260	48,120
<u>MEDITERRANEAN AREA</u>						
Cyprus.....	44	121	199	204	229	298
Israel.....	5/1,445	892	1,456	1,539	1,524	1,600
Algeria.....	9	26	51	85	85	100
French Morocco.....	10	46	132	193	91	*140
Total.....	1,508	1,085	1,838	2,021	1,929	2,138
<u>FAR EAST</u>						
Philippines, Rep. of	170	295	494	*500	*500	*500
SUB-TOTAL						
No. Hemisphere.....	34,675	56,070	42,382	52,691	46,689	50,758
<u>SOUTH AMERICA</u>						
Argentina.....	48	145	239	300	*300	
Surinam.....	10	50	56	62	*60	
Total.....	58	195	345	362	360	
<u>OTHER SO. HEMISPHERE</u>						
Union of So. Africa.	495	684	828	945	990	
Australia.....	3	126	142	118	128	
New Zealand.....	15	56	72	83	68	
SUB-TOTAL						
SO. HEMISPHERE.....	571	1,061	1,387	1,508	1,546	
WORLD TOTAL	35,246	57,131	44,269	54,199	48,235	

CITRUS FRUIT: Production in specified countries,
average 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1952-55 1/

A r e a	LEMONS					
	Average		1952	1953	1954	1955 2/
	1935-39	1945-49				
	- - -	1, 0 0 0	b o x e s - - -			
<u>NORTH AMERICA</u>						
United States.....	9,552	12,498	12,590	16,130	14,000	13,200
<u>MEDITERRANEAN AREA</u>						
Greece.....	446	633	1,085	1,209	1,179	1,114
Italy.....	9,637	7,517	8,399	8,911	8,018	8,122
Spain.....	1,445	1,108	1,874	2,205	1,015	1,305
Cyprus.....	52	72	169	167	153	*170
Lebanon.....	464	476	435	450	435	*450
Israel.....	5/88	288	220	295	373	350
Turkey.....	74	260	667	470	755	865
Algeria.....	102	131	247	290	290	320
Egypt.....	81	112	*150	*150	*150	*150
French Morocco.....	18	61	142	133	183	*200
Tunisia.....	50	154	225	273	261	281
Total.....	12,457	10,812	13,613	14,553	12,812	13,327
<u>SUB-TOTAL</u>						
No. Hemisphere...	22,009	23,310	26,203	30,683	26,812	26,527
<u>SOUTH AMERICA</u>						
Argentina.....	371	1,340	1,535	1,453	*1,500	
Chile.....	250	610	812	435	725	
Surinam.....	2	18	13	11	*12	
Uruguay.....	150	202	167	174	174	
Total.....	773	2,170	2,527	2,073	2,411	
<u>OTHER SO. HEMISPHERE</u>						
Union of So. Africa	142	180	218	249	261	
Australia.....	302	427	401	321	349	
New Zealand.....	65	69	59	53	49	
<u>SUB-TOTAL</u>						
So. Hemisphere.....	1,282	2,846	3,205	2,696	3,070	
<u>WORLD TOTAL..</u>	23,291	26,156	29,408	33,379	29,882	

CITRUS FRUIT: Production in specified countries,
average 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1952-55 1/

A r e a	LIMES (Acid)					
	Average		1952	1953	1954	1955 2/
	1935-39	1945-49				
	-	-	1,000	boxes	-	-
Mexico.....	652	1,632	2,044	2,039	2,260	2,315
United States :	63	200	320	370	380	360
Egypt.....	1,194	950	790	1,053	1,200	*1,200
7/ WORLD TOTAL:	2,250	3,380	3,700	4,000	4,500	4,600

1/ Northern Hemisphere: Harvest begins in November of the year shown.

Southern Hemisphere: Harvest begins in May following the year shown.

Production in foreign countries converted to boxes of the following weights: Oranges 70 pounds; grapefruit and limes 80 pounds; lemons 76 pounds.

2/ Preliminary. Asterisk denotes an assumed production in countries where official estimates are not available.

3/ Not available.

4/ Includes Syria.

5/ Produced in Palestine.

6/ Included in Lebanon.

7/ Includes small quantities in other countries not separately reported.

FURTHER HAIL DAMAGE TO TASMANIAN APPLES REPORTED

As a result of the severe hailstorm that struck the Huon Valley apple-producing area of Tasmania in the latter part of December, the State Fruit Board estimated that 500,000 boxes of apples were either destroyed or damaged to the extent of making them unfit for export.

In addition, on January 10 a second hailstorm is reported to have struck the Huon Valley fruit area. Mr. D. J. Malone, Secretary of the Tasmanian State Fruit Board, now estimates that over 50 percent of the fruit in the Valley has been damaged. The Valley normally produces 75 percent of Tasmania's export crop, but Mr. Malone predicted that many growers would be unable to fulfill export commitments.

VERNA LEMON SHIPMENTS FROM SPAIN BEGIN

First shipments of Verna lemons from Spain started the week of January 9, when a small quantity was shipped to the United Kingdom. Contract prices ranged from \$4.06 to \$4.48, f.o.b. Malaga.

LATE SOUTH AFRICAN FRUIT CROP PRESENTS SHIPPING PROBLEMS

The South African Deciduous Fruit Board expects to encounter difficult problems in shipping deciduous fruit crops. As a result of cool spring weather, the early Western Province fruit crop is unusually late. This places more than one million cases each of pears and apples, 4 million boxes of grapes, plus other fruit ready to be exported during a greater peak period than ever before.

Advance arrangements for refrigerated space were made several months ago on estimated needs. However, the heavy crop and favorable weather threaten to present an even larger peak than expected. From the middle of February onward, the Board expected to receive upwards of 2,000 tons of fruit a day at the precooling stores. A gap of one day in the availability of shipping space during this period would cause serious congestion and subsequent loss to producers. South African fruit exports are expected to establish a new record this season.

1955 AUSTRALIAN PRUNE CROP SMALL

As a result of unfavorable weather conditions, the Australian dried prune crop in 1955 amounted to only 2,600 short tons, compared with the bumper 1954 crop of 4,300 tons. Production over the 5 years, 1950-54, averaged 3,300 tons. In order to maintain exports in the face of a small crop, the home consumption quota for dried prunes for 1955 was declared at 40 percent, compared with 50 percent in 1954.

CANADA SETS PRICE SUPPORTS FOR POTATOES AND APPLES

The Canadian Minister of Agriculture announced on January 6 the establishment of floor prices for dessert apples, and for potatoes used in the manufacture of starch. Under the support price, apple growers will be guaranteed a minimum average return of one cent per pound delivered at plant or local warehouse on Canadian Fancy or better grades of dessert varieties. Potato growers are assured of \$1.00 per 165-pound barrel of Canada No. 1 grade potatoes diverted to starch factories.

Nova Scotia is the only province that has applied for apple aid. New Brunswick and P.E.I. have requested the potato aid program.

Price Support Board officials doubt that any of the other provinces will be interested in the programs. Since the support prices are retro-active on all 1955 production, it will benefit the three Maritime provinces. Extent of participation in the programs has not been indicated.

MALAYAN PINEAPPLE INDUSTRY SEEKS TO STANDARDIZE EXPORT QUALITY

Increasing costs in fruit, tin-plate, packing, and labor have forced the Malayan pineapple industry to shift from competing with other pineapple industries on a price basis to competing on a quality basis.

The Pineapple Canners Federation of Malaya is drafting legislation to standardize quality grading and labeling throughout the industry to prevent exports that do not comply with the required standards of the controlling authority. Grading and labeling standards are being established to control the quality of canned pineapple exports. Present grades in effect are: (1) Choice Golden Quality; (2) Standard Quality, and (3) White or sub-standard.

BANANA PRODUCTION INCREASES IN BRAZIL

Banana production in Brazil continues an upward trend. A 1955 crop of 213,000 stems is estimated in comparison with the 198,000 stems produced in 1954. This reflects an increase in production of about 7 percent. Acreage under banana production has risen from 349,000 acres in 1954 to 369,000 acres in 1955. Argentina receives the majority of Brazil's banana exports.

AVERAGE RAISIN CROP FORECAST IN AUSTRALIA

The 1956 crop of dried vine fruits in Australia is expected to be about the same size as the 1955 crop, which totalled 89,600 tons. Australian production over the last 5 years has averaged 88,000 tons.

According to reports received from various State Departments of Agriculture, currants are showing a particularly heavy crop this year, and sultanas and other raisins an average crop. Accordingly, it is expected that, if the remainder of the season is favorable, a normal quantity of dried vine fruits will be available for export. A further factor to be considered in this respect is the flexibility in dried fruit production provided by diversion to wineries. As the export of Australian wines has fallen to a rather low level and stocks of wine are quite high at present, diversion to wineries is likely to be small this year, and consequently larger amounts of fruit will be available for drying.

Most recent estimates of the 1955 production are as follows: Currants--12,200 short tons; Sultanas--66,700 tons; and Lexias--10,700 tons.

SWEDEN REVISES FRUIT IMPORT DUTIES

Effective January 1, 1956, Sweden made the following changes in fruit import duties.

<u>Commodity</u>	<u>Old Duty</u>	<u>New Duty</u>
	- - - - - <u>Kronor per 100 kg.</u> - - - - -	
Fresh apples	From 7/1 to 12/31...20 " 1/1 to 1/30...10 " 2/1 to 6/30...Free	From 7/1 to 2/29...25 " 3/1 to 6/30...Free
Fresh pears	" 7/1 to 12/30...20 " 1/1 to 6/30...Free	From 7/1 to 12/31...25 " 1/1 to 6/30...Free
Canned apricots, peaches, pears and mixed fruits3530

These changes result from recent negotiations under GATT Article XXVIII between Sweden and the United States. Other changes were made in items supplied by Japan in parallel negotiations at the same time between Sweden, Japan, and the United States.

NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM SET
U.S. APPLE AND PEAR IMPORT DATES

The Netherlands government has announced that imports of fresh apples from the dollar area will be permitted beginning March 15, 1956. The comparable date for pears is February 15. Belgium has announced identical arrangements for pears and will probably conform to the same apple import period as The Netherlands.

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BURMA INCREASES TOBACCO PRODUCTION

Tobacco production, as estimated by the Agricultural and Rural Development Corporation of Burma, for the 1956 harvest is placed at 107.5 million pounds, from 132,000 acres, as compared with the 1955 harvest of 106.5 million pounds, from 131,700 acres. Flue-cured production is estimated at 1.3 million pounds from 1,800 acres in contrast to the 1955 harvest of .4 million pounds from 600 acres.

The Corporation is actively expanding flue-cured production, even though there is some doubt as to the quality and the suitability of growing flue-cured tobacco in most parts of Burma. Flue-cured production during the first two years of its initiation under the five-year tobacco plantation program has been able to supply about 10 percent of Burma's cigarette tobacco requirements. The goal of the program is to supply Burma's total requirements by 1958. The acreage and production of the native types of tobacco are not expected to change appreciably in the immediate future.

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Ag. Circ. FG-1-56

Miscellaneous Tobacco Developments. Foreign Ag. Circ. FT-1-56

1955-56 World Citrus Production Higher. Foreign Ag. Circ. FCF-1-56

L A T E N E W S

Smaller than usual crops of beans were harvested in 1954 and 1955 in the Union of South Africa, and domestic prices have risen 30 to 50 percent in the last 18 months. Present stocks of beans are relatively low, leaving not more than 100,000 bags of the 1955 crop available for export. A new harvest will come in May-June 1956. Prices to producers in December for small white beans were \$6.30 to \$6.65 per hundred-weight. Exports in past years have gone mostly to other African areas, plus a few to Western Europe.

FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

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